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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	COLLE et al.	Docket No.:	9728.242USWO
Serial No.:	unknown	Filed:	concurrent herewith
Int'l Appln No.:	PCT/EP01/01762	Int'l Filing Date:	16 February 2001
Title:	CHEWING GUM CONTAINING ENCAPSULATED ABRASIVE FILLER SUBSTANCE		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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Date of Deposit: December 26, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By: 

Name: Chris Stordahl

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Insert the attached Abstract page into the application as the last page thereof.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

A courtesy copy of the present specification is enclosed herewith. However, the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) copy should be relied upon if it is already in the U.S. Patent Office.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete claims 1 through 9 and add claims 10 through 17 to read as follows:

10. (NEW) A chewing gum composition including an abrasive filler substance, characterized in that the said abrasive filler substance is selected from the group consisting of abrasive silica, calcium carbonate, talc, kaolin and mixtures thereof and is encapsulated in micro spheres of cross-linked alginate.
11. (NEW) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said micro spheres have an equivalent average diameter lying between 0.6 and 1.5 mm.
12. (NEW) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said micro spheres have an equivalent average diameter lying between 1 and 1.2 mm.
13. (NEW) A chewing gum composition according Claim 1, characterized in that the said micro spheres are present in quantities from 1% to 10% by weight referred to the weight of the chewing gum.
14. (NEW) A chewing gum composition according Claim 1, characterized in that the said abrasive filler substance is present in particles having dimensions expressed as equivalent average diameter, lying between 2 and 100 μ m.

15. (NEW) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 5, characterized in that the said abrasive filler substance has a particle size lying between 6 and 10 μm .

16. (NEW) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said micro spheres comprise from 80% to 99% by weight of abrasive filler substance.

17. (NEW) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said micro spheres further include ingredients chosen from flavorings, sweeteners, active agents and mixtures thereof.

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REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to delete claims 1 through 9 and to add claims 10 through 17.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

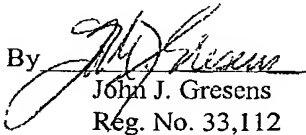
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 26, 2001

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JJG/kjr/jlh

ABSTRACT

A chewing gum composition including an abrasive filler substance, the said abrasive filler substance being encapsulated in cross-linked alginate microspheres.

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